

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUBURN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the Auburn Correctional Facility in Auburn, NY.

The Auburn Correctional Facility has served Central New York diligently and without fail—never ceasing to operate 24 hours a day for seven days a week—for 200 years. The Auburn Correctional Facility has been an economic driver in Auburn and Central New York, creating jobs and boosting the local economy over the past two centuries.

I commend the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for keeping the Auburn Correctional Facility operational for the last 200 years, and I wish the Auburn Correctional Facility continued success in the years to come.

FEDERAL COURT DECISION ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ELECTION INTEGRITY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express deep concern about the recent Federal Court decision on the Trump Administration's Presidential Advisor Commission on Election Integrity. The partisan commission led by Vice President PENCE and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach sparked controversy on June 28th when they requested the names, date of birth, party registrations, partial Social Security numbers, and voting history of more than 150 million registered voters across America.

Immediately following this request, voting rights groups and civil liberty activists challenged the Commission on Election Integrity in Federal Court. Earlier this week, a D.C. federal judge ruled that the White House is exempt from federal privacy review requirements, permitting the Trump Administration's commission to move forward with collecting voters' personal information throughout the country. This decision is a setback to democracy, because it legitimizes the voter suppression efforts of this commission.

The creation of the Commission on Election Integrity is based on an inaccurate claim by President Trump that he would have "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." It is also upsetting that the commission is using tax payer money to promote this false narrative.

Fortunately, the D.C. Federal Court's decision will not be the final ruling on the legitimacy of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Many other groups, including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, have filed lawsuits in federal courts across the country to challenge the commission's efforts.

With the seemingly constant attacks on voting rights, it is easy to become discouraged and disengaged. I challenge every American to draw inspiration from the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movement who risked their lives in the pursuit of unfettered access to the ballot. As old battles become new again, we must re-double our efforts to ensure equal access to the voting booth. That is why I proposed H.R. 2978—The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017. By restoring the full protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we can address the problem of voter discrimination and help ensure all Americans, regardless of race and economic status, are able to exercise their right to vote.

HONORING TALENT IN GEORGIA'S FILM INDUSTRY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the success and bright future of the film industry in my home state of Georgia.

When Americans ventured out to see feature films like Spiderman: Homecoming and Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2 they watched movies that were shot 50 miles south of my home in Gainesville. Ten years ago, no one could imagine big ticket films such as these being produced here. But today, Georgia's film industry yields an economic impact of over \$7 billion.

The need for Georgians to keep up with the pace of this industry's growth is crucial. Therefore, I want to take the time to commend the efforts that my northeast Georgia friends have taken to educate and inspire our youngest generation to get involved in film production.

Recently, the Hall County Library System hosted a film school that offered free classes to young students. There, students were taught how to draft their own movie scripts, shoot videos at different angles, and edit them in order to provide viewers with the best experience.

Additionally, I want to recognize Opal Littleton, a star on the rise from Dahlonega. She was recently cast as the role of young Charlotte Byrde on the show Ozark and is working with Clint Eastwood on his film, 15:17 to Paris.

The future of Georgia's film industry is being paved by the talent of these young Georgians and the support that their loved ones give to them. I am excited to watch them grow and take on their own roles in the success of Georgia's film industry.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH V. ERARDI, JR.

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr. upon

his retirement as the Superintendent of Schools in Newtown, Connecticut. Dr. Erardi is a distinguished educator and administrator, and his legacy of fighting for Connecticut's students will inspire the next generation of public servants.

Dr. Erardi has long been active in education in our state. He completed his undergraduate and Master's degrees at Central Connecticut State University before earning his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford. Before joining the Newtown Public Schools, Joe worked in school administration at Rockville High, Killingly High, and Manchester Public Schools. He then worked as Superintendent at the Southington, Watertown, and Bolton school districts in Connecticut before joining Newtown as Superintendent in 2014.

Joe's leadership has been vital to support our local schools during a challenging time for our state and local governments. In November 2016, the Connecticut Boards of Education and Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents named Dr. Erardi as the Superintendent of the Year for 2017 in recognition of his dedication to students, teachers, and his district. What's more, in spite of his demanding work at Newtown Public Schools, Joe found the time to teach at Central Connecticut State University and to share his experience with the next generation of educators.

On a personal note, I want to honor my friend Joe. He is a true educator, mentor, and citizen servant. Joe, we'll miss you—but know that your service stands as a benchmark for all of us who care about education and about our communities. I extend him my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement with his wife, Sue, and children, Joe and Chelsea.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joseph Erardi dedicated his career in public service to improving our public schools and ensuring Connecticut's students receive a quality education. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY NURNBERG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jerry Nurnberg for his many years of service to the Creston Volunteer Fire Department. After serving admirably for 45 years, Jerry has decided it's time to hang up his boots.

Jerry joined the Creston Fire Department in 1972. Not only did he work calls for fires, but in the beginning, the volunteers also responded to ambulance calls. He has had experience with everything from house fires to train wrecks and has been the treasurer for the volunteer fire fighters for most of his tenure.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor representing Jerry in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in commending him for his outstanding service to the city of Creston and in wishing him nothing but the best in his retirement.